

MAHATHIR - ASSEMBLY
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 7 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI D.R. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO OVERTHROW IT THROUGH UNLAWFUL MEANS.

SPEAKING TO A GATHERING OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AT THE JALAN RAJA MUDA STADIUM HERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VISIT TO THE FEDERAL TERRITORY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ONLY THE PEOPLE COULD REMOVE THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY.

+HOWEVER, IF THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD TRY TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH ILLEGAL MEANS, WE WILL STOP THEM, WE WILL CRUSH THEM, HE SAID TO THE APPROVING CHEERS AND APPLAUSE OF THE ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE NO LONGER WANTED THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, THEY COULD REMOVE IT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY.

HE THANKED ALL QUARTERS CONCERNED INCLUDING FEDERAL TERRITORY RESIDENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD MADE POSSIBLE THE RESOLVING OF THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT CRISIS.

+I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PLEDGE TO DO MY BEST TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE, + HE SAID. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT WITH CONTINUED SUPPORT⁹ THE GOVERNMENT RESOLVED TO DO MORE FOR THE BENEFIT AND PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH A JUST SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION.

WHAT WAS REQUIRED NOW WAS FOR THE PEOPLE TO BE ALSO WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES IN BUILDING A 'DISCIPLINED ATTITUDE⁹ UNITY' AND CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK AND IN ACQUIRING NEW 'SKILLS.

THESE QUALITIES WERE IMPORTANT TO FACE THE RAPID CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE PATIENCE SHOWN BY THE PEOPLE THAT HAD ENABLED THE COUNTRY TO COPE WITH THE PAST THREE YEARS OF ECONOMIC ADVERSITY WAS PROOF OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SACRIFICE.

HOWEVER, A GOOD INDICATOR OF RECOVERY HAD MANIFESTED ITSELF WITH THE RISE IN PALM OIL PRICE TO \$1,930 A TONNE FROM THE PREVIOUS \$800 PER TONNE.

HE SAID THE PRICE INCREASE WOULD BENEFIT THE PEOPLE AS THE EXPORT TAX ON THE COMMODITY WOULD BE SPENT ON THEIR WELL-BEING.

IT WAS THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO USE ALL ADDITIONAL REVENUE TO HELP THE PEOPLE MORE EFFECTIVELY. -- MORE 2300/SA

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE AND THE GOVERNMENT WERE NEITHER POWER -- CRAZY NOR DESIROUS OF, SEIZING POWER ILLEGALLY BY AMENDING THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION AS ALLEGED BY SOME PEOPLE.

THIS WAS CLEARLY BORNE OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PROMISE TO MAKE ANumber OF CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS ALTHOUGH THE AMENDMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED.

HE STRESSED THAT AFTER THE CHANGES WERE EFFECTED BY PARLIAMENT ON MONDAY, NOBODY COULD EVER AGAIN ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF IGNORING THE INTERESTS OF ANY ONE PARTY IN THE MATTER.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESS IN RESOLVING THE AMENDMENT CRISIS WAS ACHIEVED THE MALAYSIAN WAY.

+WE DO NOT CARE WHAT OTHERS SAY OF THE ACHIEVEMENT,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE NEW BILL WAS NOT THAT DISSIMILAR TO THE AMENDMENTS THAT HAD BEEN APPROVED, THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL PREPARED TO TABLE IT IN PARLIAMENT+ OUT OF RESPECT TO THE WISHES OF THE PARTY CONCERNED,+ -- MORE 2055/SA

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+THIS SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE IN THE MATTER,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, THE ONE THING THAT CANNOT BE COMPROMISED IS THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REITERATED THAT THE AMENDMENTS WERE AIMED SOLELY AT CLARIFYING THE POWERS INVESTED IN THE PEOPLE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNTRY WHICH SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY WITHIN A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY.

HE SAID THE AMENDMENTS WERE NEVER AIMED AT REMOVING THE POWERS OF THE MALAYS RULERS BECAUSE THEIR POSITION WAS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION. -- BERNAMA 2100/SA